guidelines permitting foreign owned news channels to uplink from India, is under consideration.

(d) This Ministry regulates the grant of licence for DTH services, which can be issued subject to fulfillment of laid down eligibility criteria, and compliance with various terms and conditions.

Scenes of polluting culture being telecast

†1171. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that scenes polluting culture, civilisation and traditions of the country are being telecast on various channels in the country;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to take any action in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) Complaints/suggestions are received from time to time, expressing concerns about programmes telecast on TV Channels.

The programmes of all Satellite Channels, when transmitted through cable television networks in the country, are required to adhere to the Programes and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code prohibits carriage of such programmes in Cable Service, which offend god taste or decency, contain anything obscene and are not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition.

Doordarshan abides by its Broadcast Code and Code for Commercial Advertising, while telecasting programmes/advertisements. Doordarshan also previews its programmes to ensure their suitability for family viewing.

†Originat notice of ttie question was received in Hindi.

Prasar Bharati has informed that telecast of programmes by Doordarshan, , as the Public Broadcaster, are aimed at promoting moral values, culture.civilisation as well as traditions of the country. DD Bharati channel of Doordarshan is dedicated to shovt/casing Indian art, culture and heritage.

Government has constituted two Inter-Ministerial Committees under Section 20 of the Cable Television Networkd (Regulation) Act 1995, to look Into violations of the Programme and Advertising Code. On the recommendations of these Committees, appropriate action is taken against TV Channels for violations of the provisions of the Codes.

Setting up of a committee for production of Kashmir Channel

1172. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that there is a need to set up a committee to oversee the production of Kashmir Channel; and

(b) if so, by when such a committee with experts drawn from Kashmir would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that an Evaluation Committee, well versed with the language and culture of Kashmir, does the screening of proposals received under the commissioned category for Kashmir Channel.

Penai powers to PCI

1173. SHRIMATI N. R DURGA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government favour providing more penal powers to the Press Council of India to enforce its decisions;

(b) if so, the reasons for such strict control; and

(c) by when the Bill in this regard is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD); (a) to (c) No such decision has been taken.